

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 12-18 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not returned the PTO-1449 forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 10, 2004 and December 15, 2004.

Applicants are enclosing a copy of the above mentioned Information Disclosure Statements and copies of the PTO-1449 forms submitted therewith. Applicants are also enclosing the stamped postcard from the PTO indicating that the Information Disclosure Statements were received on September 10, 2004 and December 15, 2004. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the PTO-1449 forms and return the initialed and signed forms with the next Office paper.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Applicants submit herewith rewritten paragraphs for the portions of the specification that were improperly amended on January 13, 2004. Additionally, minor editorial amendments have been made to the specification at page 41 and to the abstract. No new matter has been added.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the specification.

II. Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claim 7 for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended this claim in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 7 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujinami et al. (U.S. 5,568,274).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the feature of a data formatter operable to output predetermined data in accordance with matching status information when a code is judged not to be a part of the packet start code, wherein, when a next packet start code is recognized, the predetermined data is output so as to be positioned at a head part of the data other than a header which follows the next packet start code. Applicants respectfully submit that Fujinami fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 1.

Fujinami discloses an apparatus for recording multiplexed audio and video signals, wherein the apparatus includes a header separation circuit 22, a switching circuit 23, a control circuit 24 and an entry point storage device 41 (see Figs. 2 and 12). The header separation circuit 22 separates pack headers and packet headers from a multiplexed signal, supplies the separated headers to the control circuit 24, and supplies the multiplexed signal to an input terminal G of the switching circuit 23 (see col. 3, lines 9-15).

In Fujinami, the control circuit 24 causes the switching circuit 23 to connect the input terminal G successively to the output terminals H1 and H2 in accordance with the stream ID of the packet header received from the header separation circuit 22 (see col. 3, lines 17-22 and col. 15, lines 29-33). By operating the switching circuit 23 of Fujinami in this manner, the video data and the audio data can be separated from one another, wherein the video data is supplied to the video decoder 25 and the audio data is supplied to the audio decoder 26 (see Figs. 2 and 12; and col. 15, lines 33-37).

Thus, as is evident from the foregoing description, Fujinami provides a mechanism which is able to separate audio data and video data, and transfer the separated data to the appropriate decoder (i.e., to an audio decoder or to a video decoder).

As noted above, claim 1 recites the feature of a data formatter operable to output predetermined data in accordance with matching status information when a code is judged not to be a part of the packet start code. In the Office Action, the Examiner takes the position that the audio data and video data output from the switch circuit 23 corresponds to the “predetermined data” that is output from the data formatter, as recited in claim 1.

As discussed above, however, claim 1 has been amended herein so as to recite that when a next packet start code is recognized, the predetermined data is output so as to be positioned at a head part of the data other than a header which follows the next packet start code. Thus, according to claim 1, the predetermined data that is output from the formatter is not coded data stored at the back of a packet boundary, but instead, is data stored in front of the packet boundary.

In Fujinami, as the audio data and video data output from the switch 23 to the audio decoder 26 and video decoder 25, respectively, are clearly not stored in front of a packet boundary, Applicants respectfully submit that Fujinami fails to disclose or suggest that when a next packet start code is recognized, the predetermined data is output so as to be positioned at a head part of the data other than a header which follows the next packet start code, as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Fujinami does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Fujinami, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 2, 3 and 10-13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yanagihara et al. (U.S. 6,172,989).

Claim 8 recites the feature of a formatter operable to add a predetermined number of pseudo data to the rear of a code sequence indicating the end of the coded data so that the data bus width of pipeline transfer including the end of the coded data becomes equal to the bus width of pipeline transfer including other data. Applicants respectfully submit that the Yanagihara fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 8.

Yanagihara discloses a method for transmitting a pack of 2,048 bytes through a digital interface in accordance with the IEEE 1394 standard in such a manner that the pack of 2,048

bytes is converted into a packet transmitted in isochronous communication in accordance with the IEEE 1394 standard (see col. 3, lines 5-12).

For example, in Yanagihara, the above-noted conversion includes dividing an MPEG-PS data pack of 2,048 bytes into eight groups, each group consisting of 256 bytes as source packets to be transmitted in accordance with IEEE 1394 (see col. 13, lines 56-62). After being divided into the eight groups, a 4-byte source packet header is added to the headmost end of each source packet, and 28-byte padding data is added to the hindmost end of each source packet in order to form a 288-byte source packet (see col. 13, line 63 - col. 14, line 3). The 288-byte source packets of Yanagihara are then divided into eight groups, thereby obtaining 36-byte data blocks (see col. 14, lines 15-17).

Through the above process described in Yanagihara, the MPEG-PS data pack of 2,048 bytes is converted into isochronous communication packets that can be transmitted in accordance with the IEEE 1394 standard, wherein the packets are transmitted over an AV bus 2 (see col. 14, lines 50-52; col. 16, lines 34-40; and col. 16, lines 50-57).

Thus, while Yanagihara disclose the ability to add padding data to a source packet in order to convert an MPEG-PS data pack of 2,048 bytes into isochronous communication packets that can be transmitted in accordance with the IEEE 1394 standard, Applicants respectfully submit that the padding data of Yanagihara is not added so as to equalize the bus width of a pipeline transfer, as recited in claim 8.

In other words, in Yanagihara, while padding data is added in order to properly perform the above-noted conversion, such padding data is not added so that the data bus width of pipeline

transfer including the end of the coded data becomes equal to the bus width of pipeline transfer including other data, as recited in claim 8.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Yanagihara does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 8 is patentable over Yanagihara, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 9 and 18 depend from claim 8 are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In addition, regarding claim 9, Applicants note that this claim recites the feature of a specific code sequence inserter that is operable to insert a specific code sequence in the last packet in a packet sequence before decoding, wherein the formatter is operable to add a predetermined number of pseudo data to the rear of the specific code sequence. Applicants respectfully submit that Yanagihara fails to disclose or suggest such a feature.

As noted above, Yanagihara discloses the ability to add padding data to the end of a source packet. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Yanagihara does not disclose the ability to insert a specific code sequence in the last packet in a packet sequence, wherein the formatter is operable to add a predetermined number of pseudo data to the rear of the specific code sequence, as recited in claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 9 is patentable over Yanagihara, an indication of which is kindly requested. If the Examiner maintains the rejection of claim 9, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner explicitly identify the element in Yanagihara that allegedly performs the above-discussed function recited in claim 9.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 6, 7, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujinami et al. in view of Boden (U.S. 5,633,686).

Claims 4, 6, 7, 14, 16 and 17 depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Boden fails to cure the deficiencies of Fujinami, as discussed above, with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 4, 6, 7, 14, 16 and 17 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujinami et al. in view of Toyohara (U.S. 5,768,265).

Claims 5 and 15 depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Toyohara fails to cure the deficiencies of Fujinami, as discussed above, with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 5 and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al.

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June 13, 2005



COPY

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 2304**
Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al. : Docket No. 99_0926A
Serial No. 09/380,187 : Group Art Unit 2615
Filed August 26, 1999 : Examiner James A. Fletcher

CODED SIGNAL REPRODUCTION
APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☐ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication (*for U.S. National applications filed after June 30, 2003 and International applications that have entered U.S. National Stage after June 30, 2003*),
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

- 1b. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) ☒ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

- a. ☒ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☒ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6. ☒ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al.

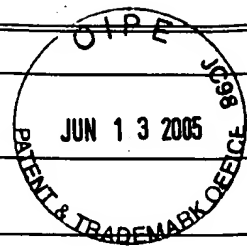
By Thomas D. Robbins
Thomas D. Robbins
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September 10, 2004

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: September 10, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.
99_0926ASERIAL NO.
09/380,187APPLICANT
Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al.FILING DATE
August 26, 1999GROUP
2615

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,602,920	02/1997	Bestler et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	0 269 974	06/1988	EP				
	AK							
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

ATTY DOCKET #: 99_0926A

Confirmation No. 2304

OUR REF: 99_0926A/TDR/01489

Applicant: Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al.

Serial No.: 09/380,187

Title: CODED SIGNAL REPRODUCTION APPARATUS

Filing Date: August 26, 1999

Receipt of the following papers is acknowledged:

Information Disclosure Statement

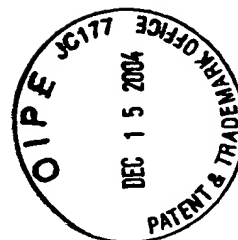
Form PTO-1449 with European Search Report and 1 reference

Date: December 15, 2004

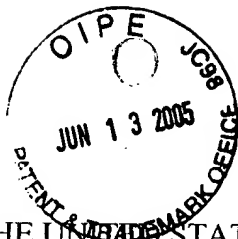
Attorney: TDR/abm

[Check No. _____]

Due Date: N/A



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and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☒ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☒ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

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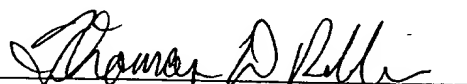
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Respectfully submitted,

Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al.

By



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December 15, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
99_0926ASERIAL NO.
09/380,187

JUN 13 2005

APPLICANT
Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al.FILING DATE
August 26, 1999GROUP
2615LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: December 15, 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	95/26595	10/1995	WO				
	AK							
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

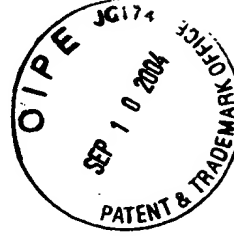
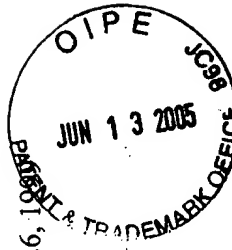
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

ATTY DOCKET #: 99_0926A
Confirmation No. 2304
OUR REF: 99_0926A/TDR/01489
Applicant: Ryoji YAMAGUCHI et al.
Serial No.: 09/380,187
Title: CODED SIGNAL REPRODUCTION APPARATUS

Filing Date: August 26, 1999

Receipt of the following papers is acknowledged:

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. PTO-1449
3. European Search Report
4. 2 References



Date: September 10, 2004

Attorney: TDR/ck

[Check No. N/A]